FREE! DRINKS MAT

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

PEEP PEEP! FROM THOMAS!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

A FREE Thomas drinks mat FOR YOU!

Supplied by
Matthews
Petersborough
PE5 7AU.
Not suitable for children
under 36 months.

MARVEL COMICS No.244 £1.20
19th Feb. 1997
08
9 770954 939107

© W. BOOKS LTD 1997

Stories · Puzzles · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 Percy's Puzzling Trip!

8 Colouring time!

10 Clowning Around!

12 Pirates!

16 All about Skarloey!

18 'Smile, please!'

21 Join the dots!

22 Competition!

23 Spot the difference!

24 Carrying Coal!

30 Mail train!

32 Photo album!

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

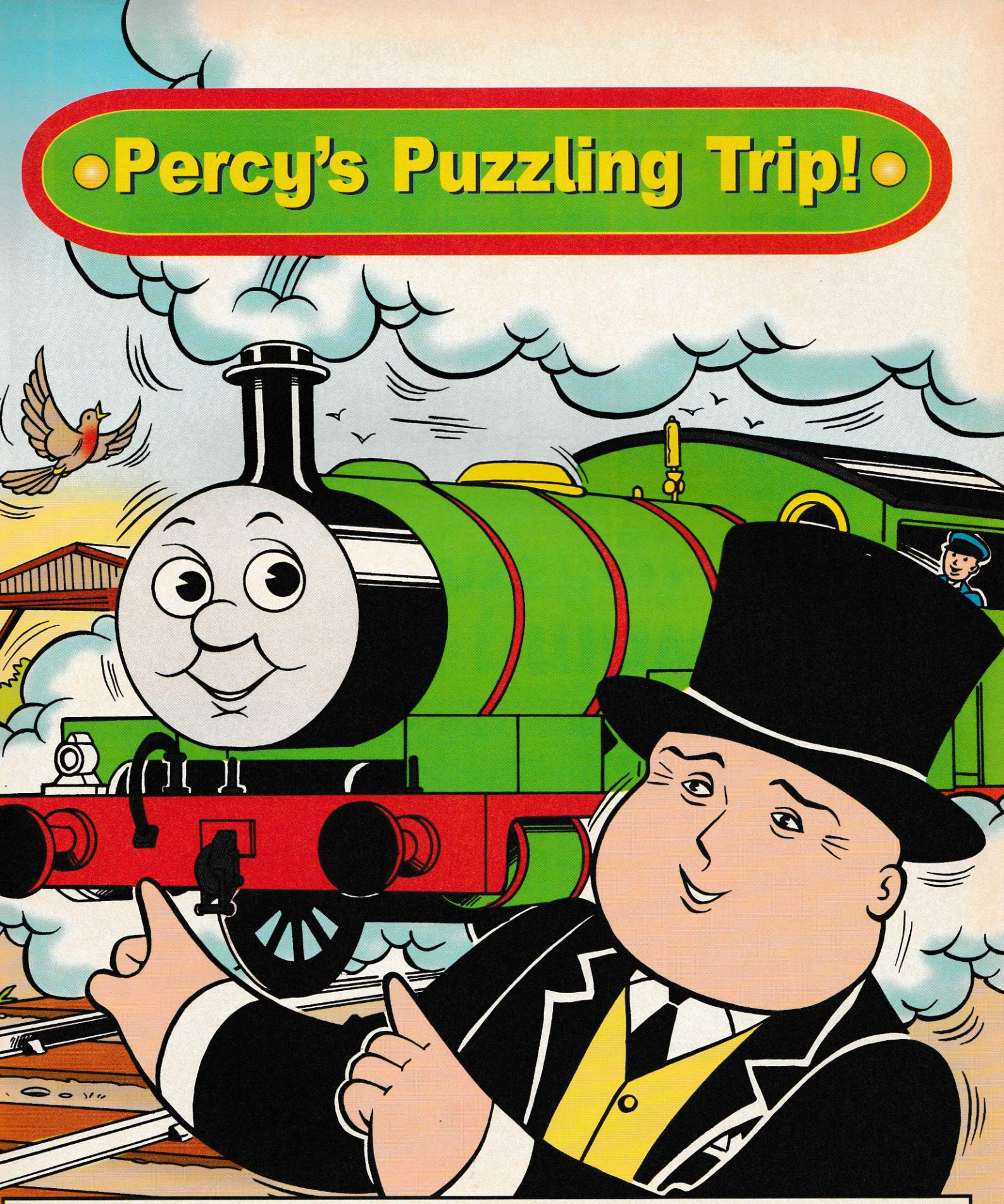
.....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Catherine Ard & Karen Brown; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design team: Steve, Giselle, Adele & Mike; Production: Mark Irvine & Catherine. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © W. H. Books. 1997. All television and merchandising rights licensed by W. H. Books. 1997 to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

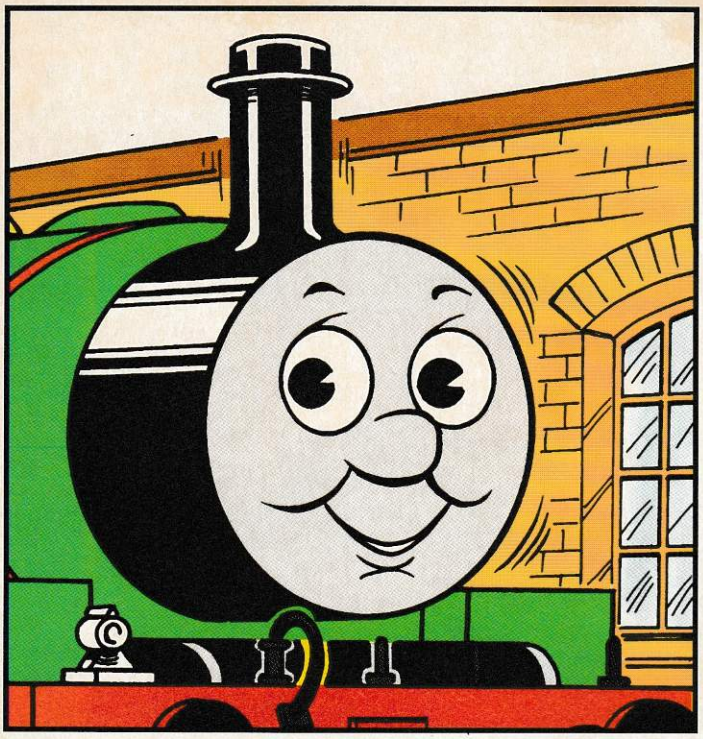
Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

Percy's Puzzling Trip!



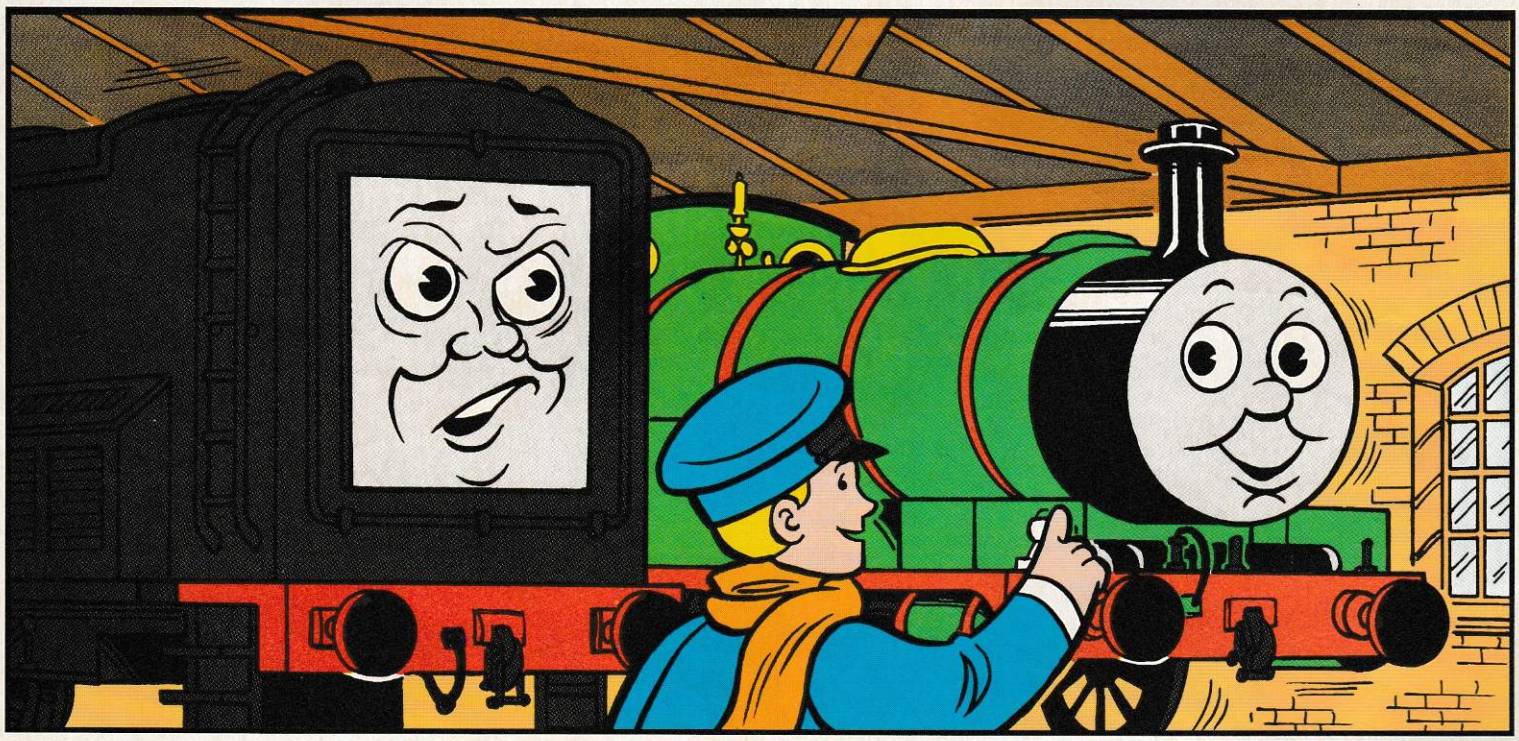
1. "I've got a very important job for you tomorrow, Percy," the Fat Controller said. Percy was pleased to hear that. "What do you want me to do, Sir?" he asked, helpfully.

2. The Fat Controller told him that some holiday-makers were arriving from the Mainland in the morning. "I want you to take them all to a station in the country," he explained.



3. Percy was surprised. Fancy people going on holiday in the middle of the winter! That sounded like a really strange thing to do. The other engines were surprised too.

4. "Don't be silly!" scoffed Diesel. "Holiday-makers come in the Summer not in the Winter!" The other engines agreed. "Perhaps I got it mixed-up," said Percy.

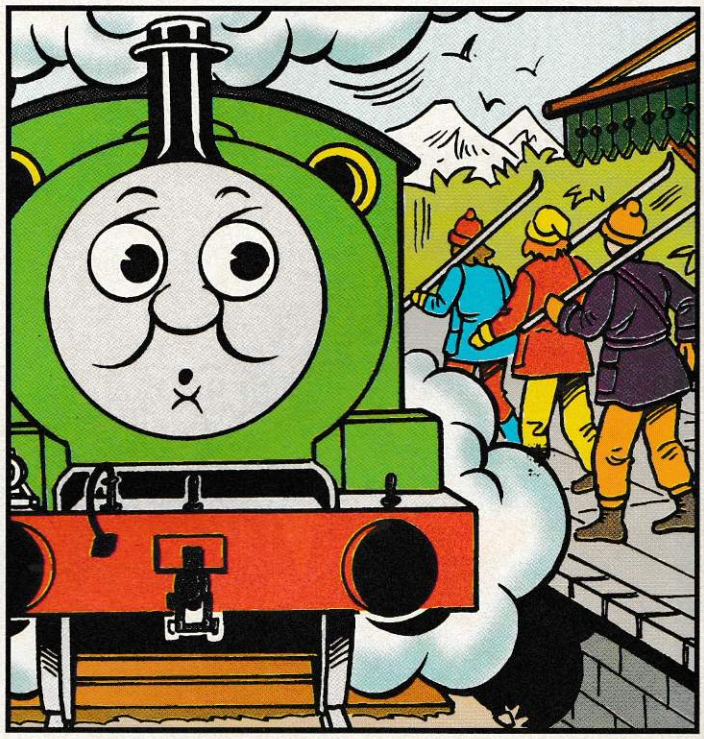


5. The next morning, Percy's driver arrived at the engine shed bright and early. "Come on then, Percy, we don't want to keep all the holiday-makers waiting," he said.

6. The other engines were quite astonished. Especially Diesel. So little Percy was right. He was going to pick up some holiday-makers. They could hardly believe it!

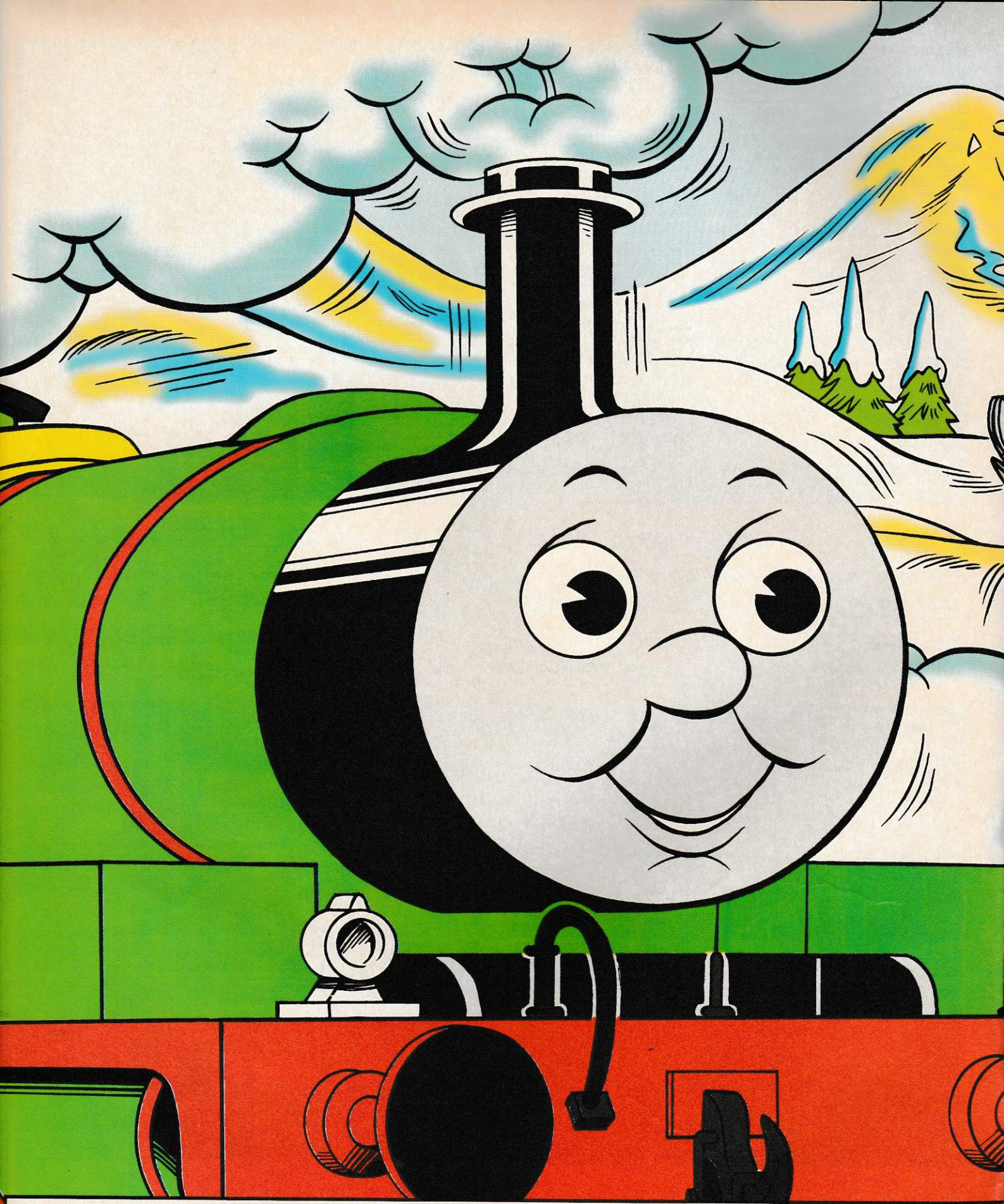
7. So Percy set off for the Main Station. It was a very cold wintry day. "Brrr!" shivered the little engine as a gust of wind blew past him. "I wish I was back in the warm shed!"

8. "It's not very nice weather for a holiday," he said to himself as he puffed along the track. "I hope these holiday-makers aren't expecting it to be hot and sunny here on Sodor."



9. Percy approached the station slowly. As he pulled up he looked for the holiday-makers. He could usually tell who they were by the bright tee shirts and shorts they wore.

10. Then a group of people dressed in thick all-in-one suits and carrying poles climbed on board. "Here are the holiday-makers," said his driver. "Off we go then, Percy."



11. "Well, at least they've dressed up warm so they are not expecting it to be sunny," Percy thought with relief. "But I wonder why they're carrying those long poles?"

12. It was quite a long journey to the country and the weather was getting colder. "I bet those holiday-makers wish they hadn't come to Sodor now," thought Percy.

13. When he pulled up at the station, Percy saw that the mountains were covered with snow. "Oh dear, it's been snowing here!" he gasped. "What a shame!"

14. "They want snow. They're on a skiing holiday!" his driver explained. "So that's why they've come in the winter!" smiled Percy. "Wait until I tell the others!"

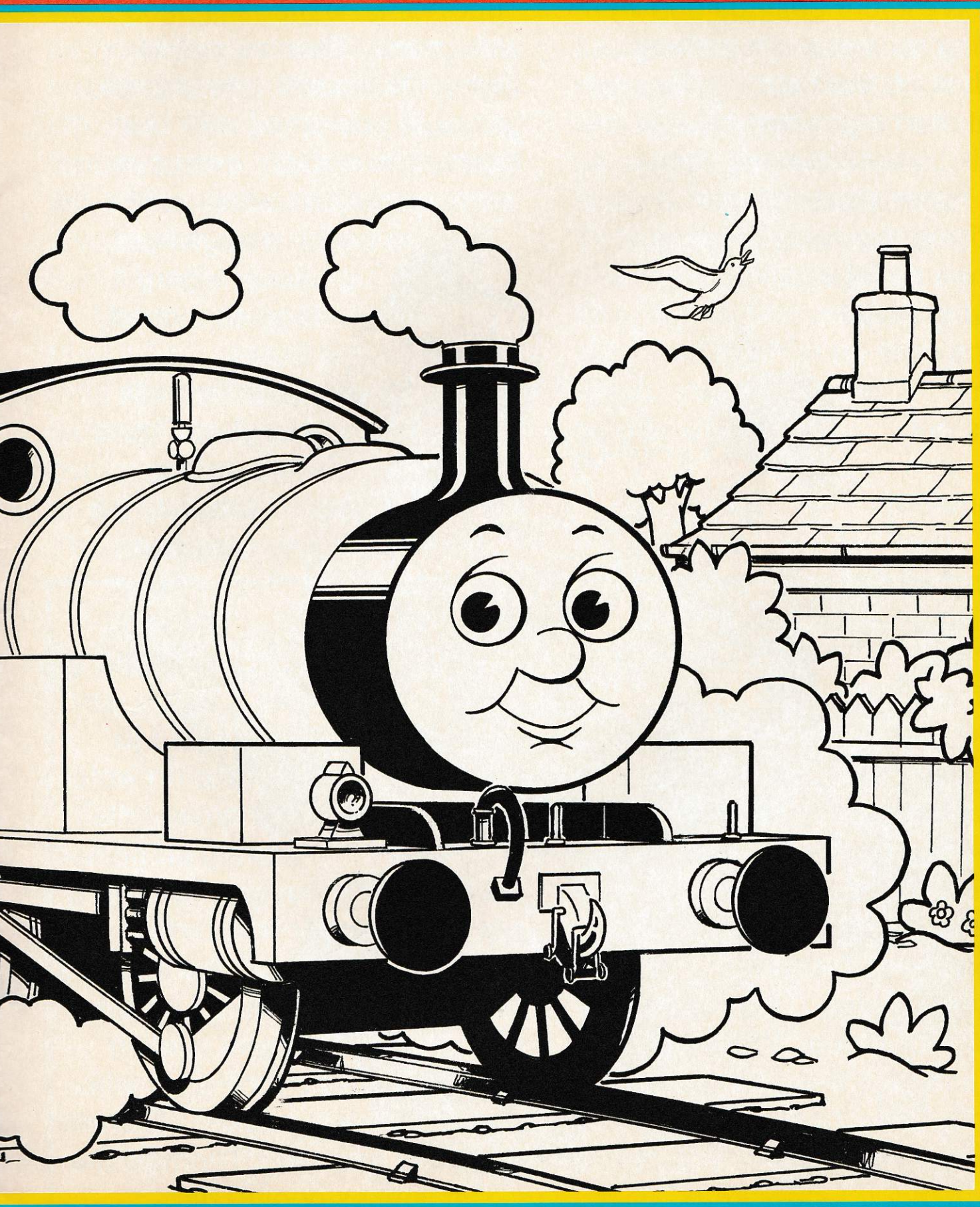
PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

Colourin

Why don't you colour in this sple

ng Time!

did picture of Thomas and Percy?



Clowning Around!

Thomas was puffing along through the countryside one bright morning, when he saw a big circus tent. Nearby, there were some colourful clowns practising their act. Thomas laughed as he watched them throwing water around and pulling chairs out from underneath each other. It was the funniest thing the little tank engine had ever seen. He was chuckling about it all day! "I would make a very good clown!" he said to himself, smiling.

The next day, Thomas set out on his new career. Work was fast and furious at the quarry, and Thomas 'the clown' saw his chance. Just as some workmen were about to load up a truck with gravel, Thomas pulled away. With nothing to stop the gravel, it poured all over the tracks, into a ditch, even over a workman's sandwiches - in fact, everywhere except where it was supposed to be!

How Thomas laughed! "Just clowning around," he giggled.

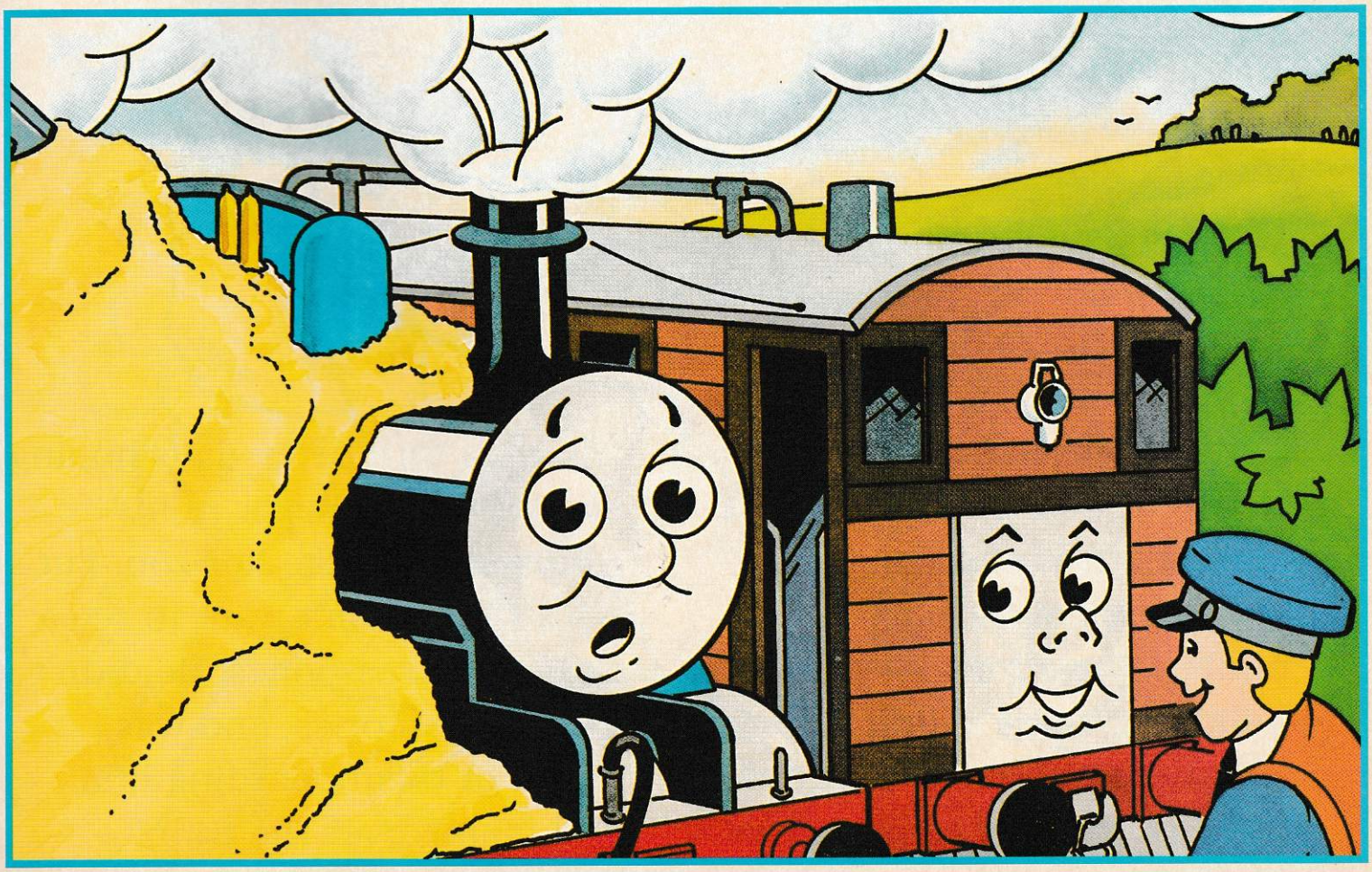
Later, Thomas spotted Percy, just about to take on water. Thomas rolled silently up behind his friend and nudged him along just as the water was turned on. Instead of going into the engine's boiler, the water poured all over Percy! "What are you playing at?" spluttered poor Percy, who was completely soaked. Thomas was very amused. "Thomas 'the clown' strikes again!" he

laughed. Percy wasn't very happy at all!

Later, Thomas decided to surprise a dozy looking Toby with a really loud whistle as he went past. He puffed up to Toby as quietly as he could, then let out the loudest "Peep!" of his life. Oh dear! The peep was so loud that it startled a workman who fell off his seat onto an important lever which sent a load of sand rushing down a chute.

Unfortunately, there were no trucks for the sand to go into - only Thomas. The little engine was half buried under the avalanche of sand! How Toby and the workmen laughed at Thomas' comeuppance. When the Fat Controller came along to see what the fuss was about, a downcast Thomas explained about his clowning around. "Well," said the Fat Controller, "now you can see that it's not so funny when the joke's on you!" He explained to Thomas that it was the clowns' job to make people laugh. But it was Thomas' job to be a Really Useful Engine! "No more clowning for me," sighed Thomas. But he couldn't help but chuckle when he thought about poor Percy and all that water!

THE END

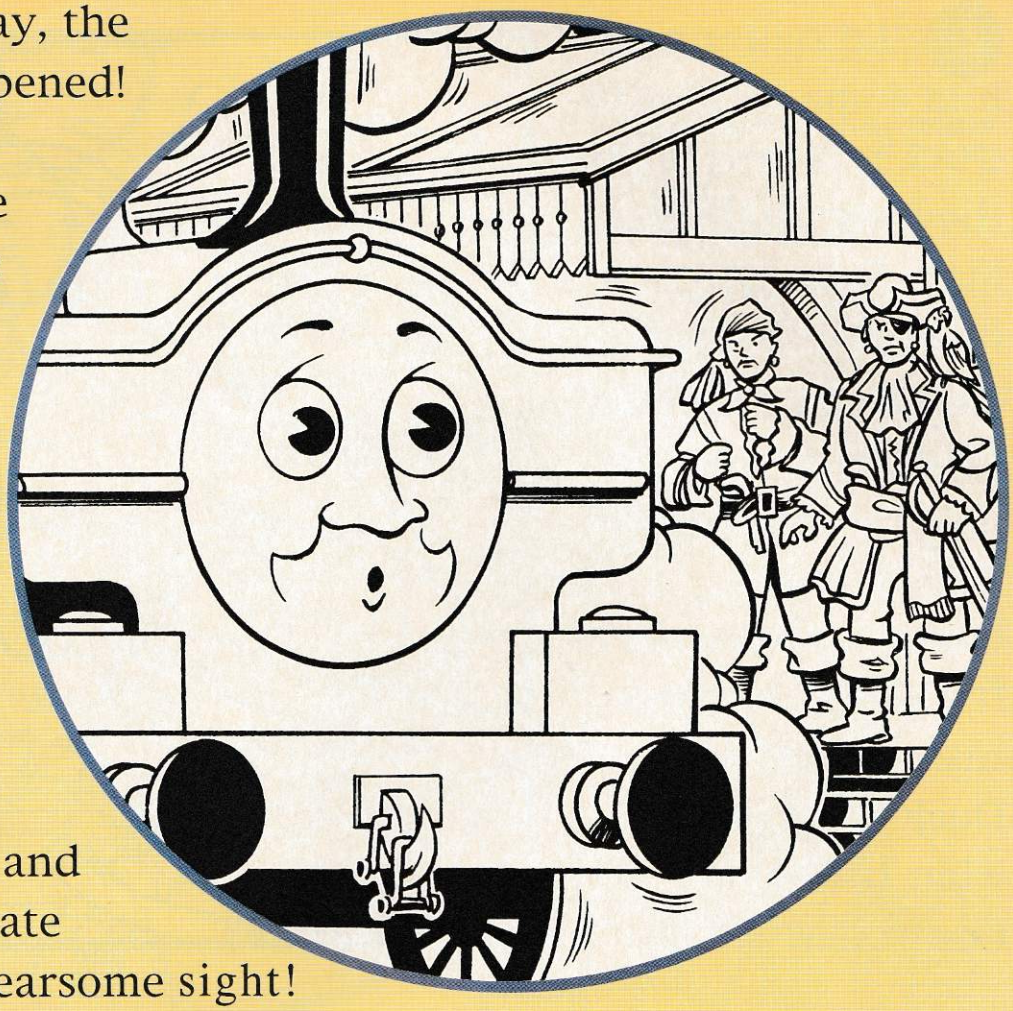


A read & colour story

Pirates!

1 Duck loved his branch line along the coast, but there was one thing about being by the sea that he was afraid of - pirates! Sometimes he heard holiday-makers telling stories about them. Excited children often peered out of his carriage windows on stormy days hoping to spot a Jolly Roger in his pirate ship on the horizon. But poor Duck didn't want to see a skull and crossbones! He didn't like pirate stories, and was afraid of them boarding him and taking over the train!

2 Then one day, the worst thing happened! He was at his favourite seaside station, when he couldn't believe his eyes! To Duck's horror a great noisy crowd of pirates climbed on board his train. They were laughing loudly and singing their pirate songs! It was a fearsome sight!



3 Before long the pirates were filling their buckets with money and waving their swords around. He was petrified! The biggest, noisiest one of all had a parrot on his shoulder and an eyepatch. "Hand over all your treasure!" he roared.

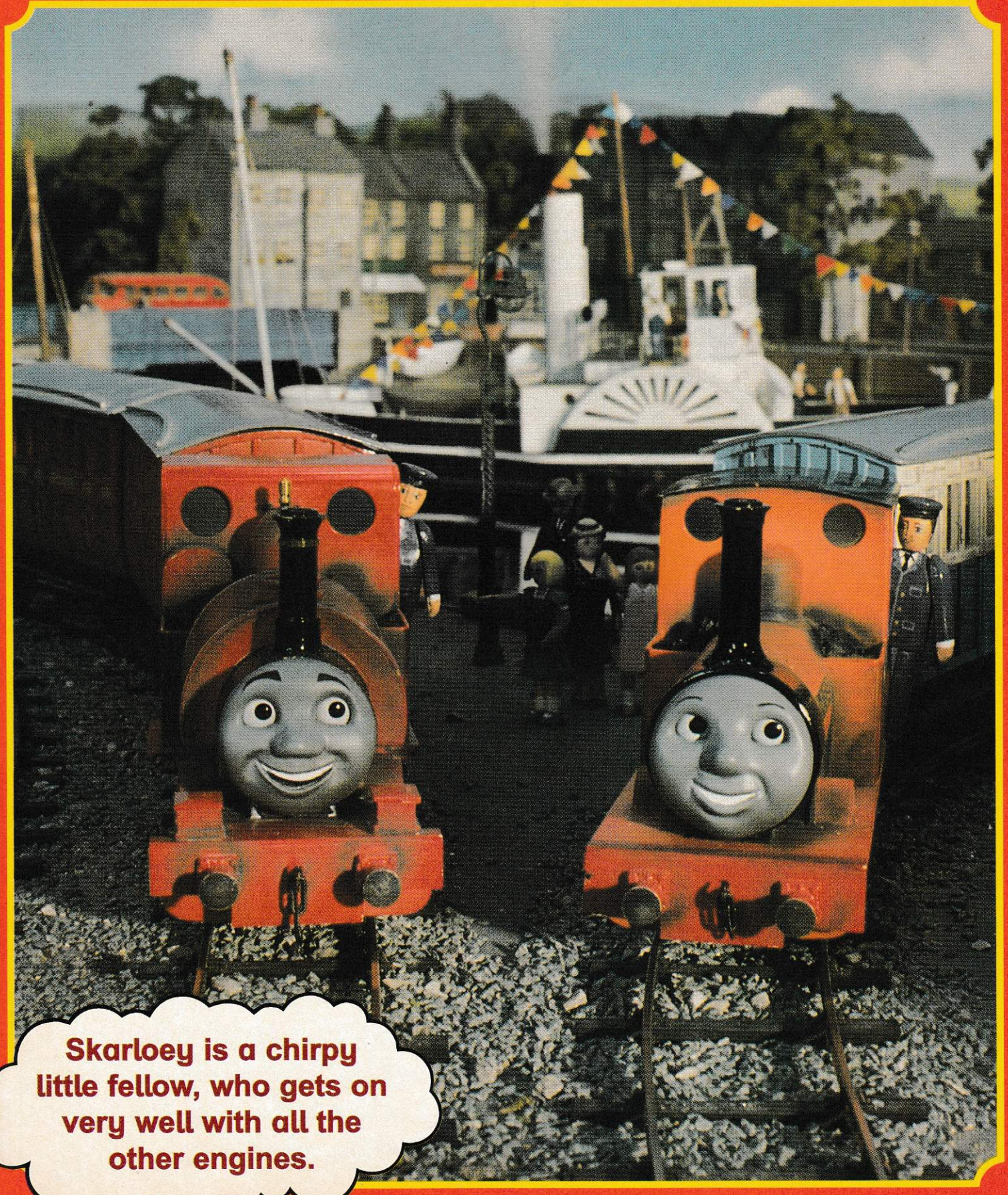
4 "I'd better give him some too!" said Duck's driver. When they arrived at the Main Station, instead of trying to escape, he went straight over to the pirate chief and put money in the bucket! "Everyone is frightened of these rascals!" thought Duck. "I wonder what the Fat Controller will do?"

5 Then the most astonishing thing of all happened. The Fat Controller arrived with some schoolchildren, who started to laugh and play with the pirates! It was then that Duck's driver smiled and explained that the pirates were really local sailors, collecting money for a special cause!

6 That evening, on the way back, Duck dropped the sailors off at the lifeboat house still in their costumes. The sailor who played the part of the pirate chief showed Duck their lifeboat. "We're saving up for another one of these," he said, "to rescue people in trouble on the high seas. Thanks for having us on board, matey!" Duck was very happy after his exciting day. Best of all, he had met some pirates and they weren't so bad after all! Duck thought he had the best branch line on Sodor!

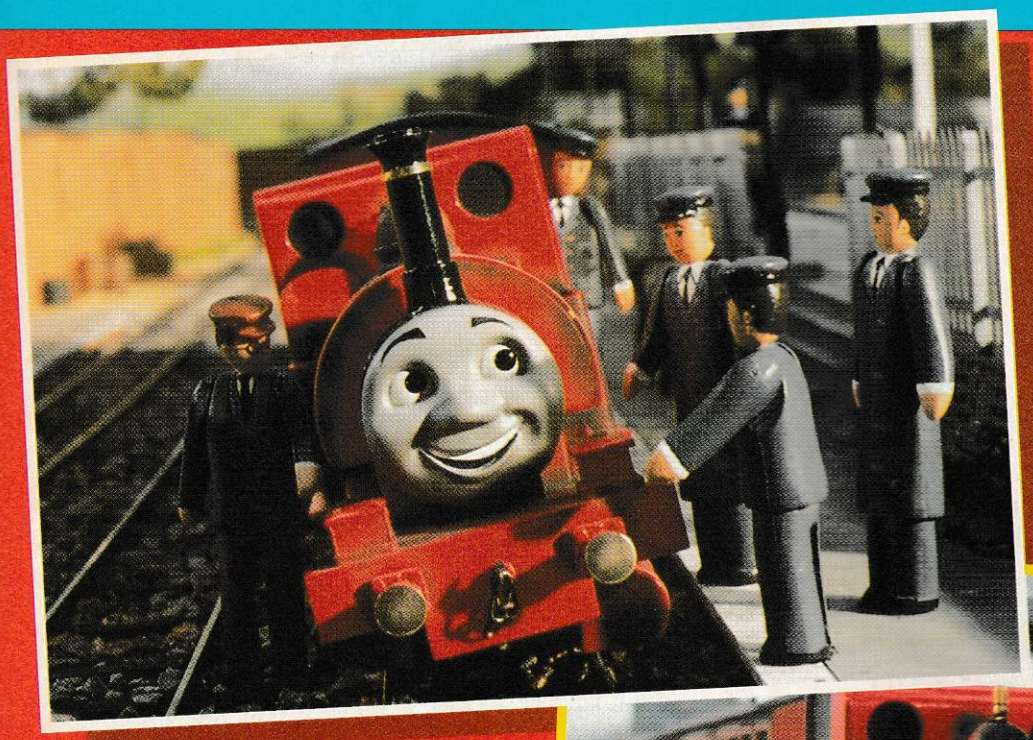
The end

All about

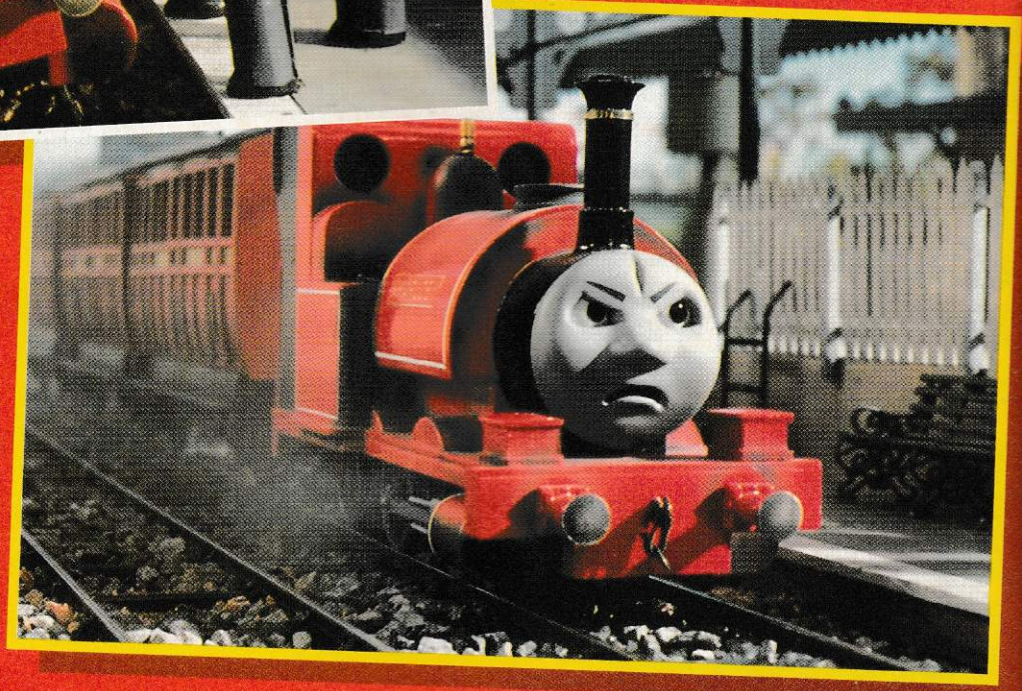


Skarloey is a chirpy little fellow, who gets on very well with all the other engines.

Skarloey!



Once, he bravely brought a train full of passengers home in terrible weather, despite being badly damaged!

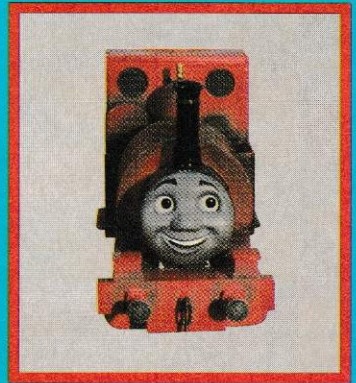


Skarloey likes to do his job well but, like anybody, he can get grumpy sometimes!

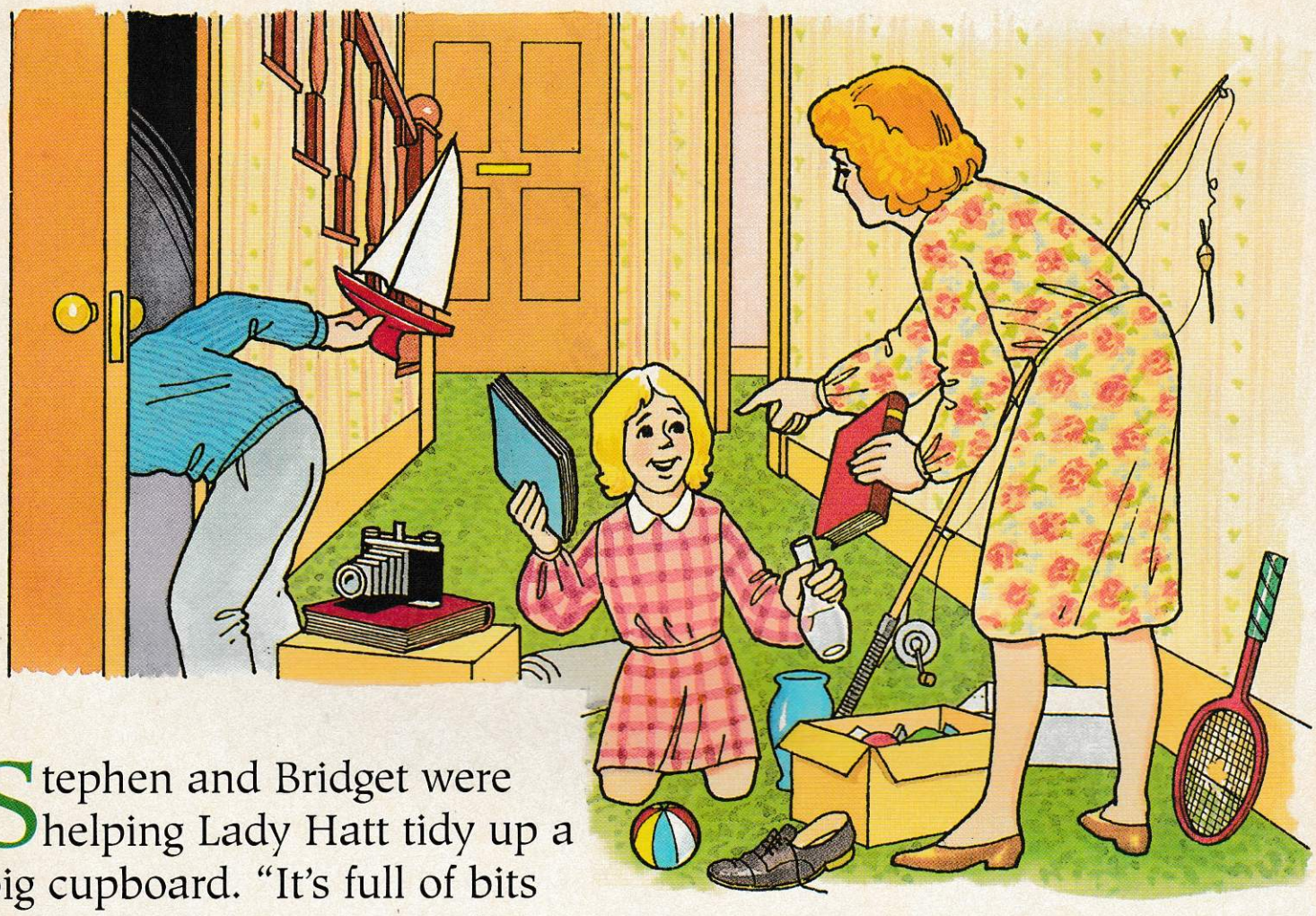
Win a model of Skarloey!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model of Skarloey from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Skarloey model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Closing date: 26th February 1997. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Skarloey!



'Smile, please!'



Stephen and Bridget were helping Lady Hatt tidy up a big cupboard. "It's full of bits and pieces. I can't remember what's in here," she told the children. "We'll soon see," replied Stephen. He lifted everything out. There was a blanket, two tennis racquets, a fishing rod, shoes, a broken musical box, an old camera, magazines and much more. "Phew! That's the lot," said Stephen, at last. "Not quite," added Bridget, who had spotted something in a shadowy corner of the cupboard.

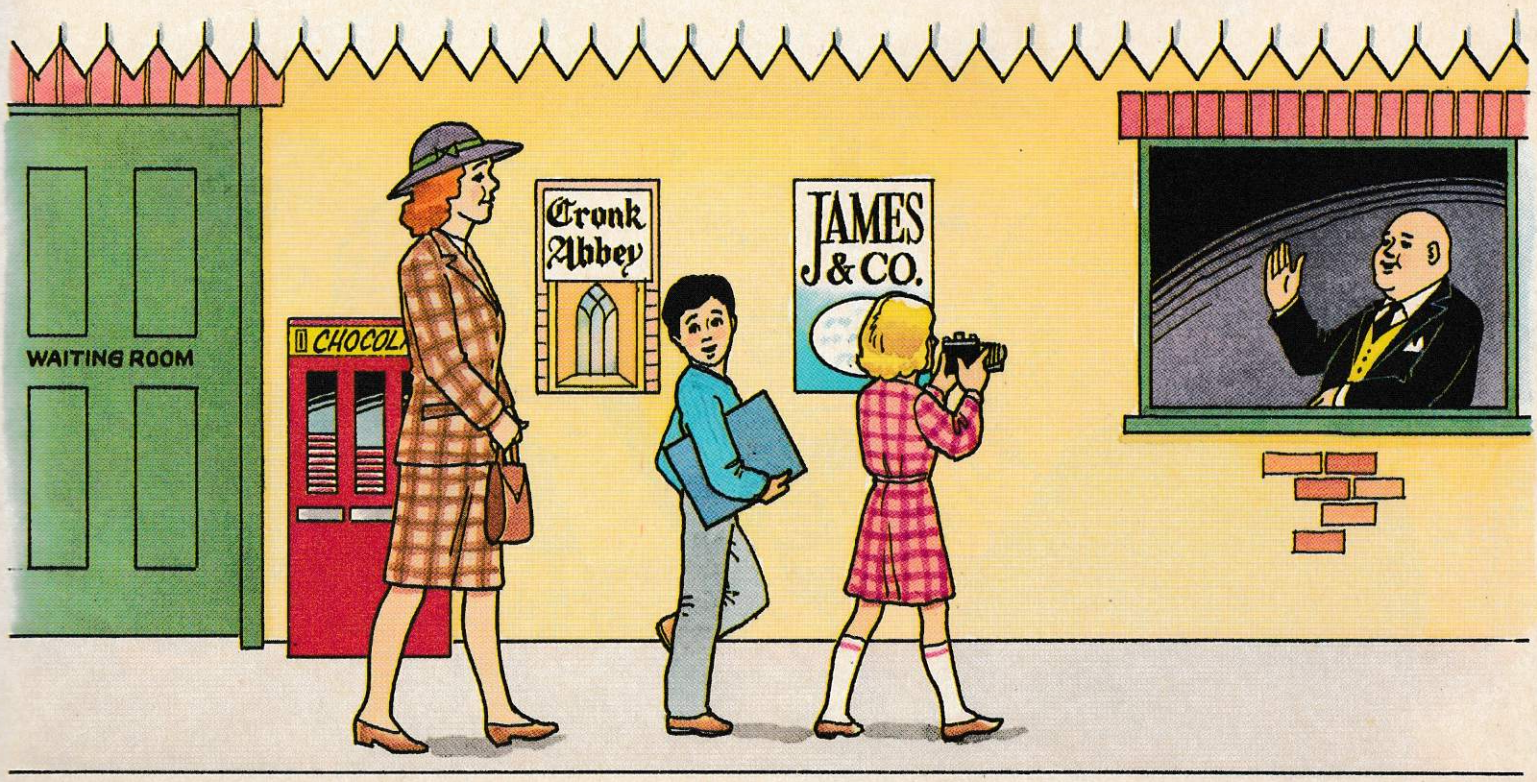
It was a big, dusty, brown book. She picked it up and gave it to her grandmother. "Why, it's a family photo album," smiled Lady Hatt. "I wondered where that had got to."

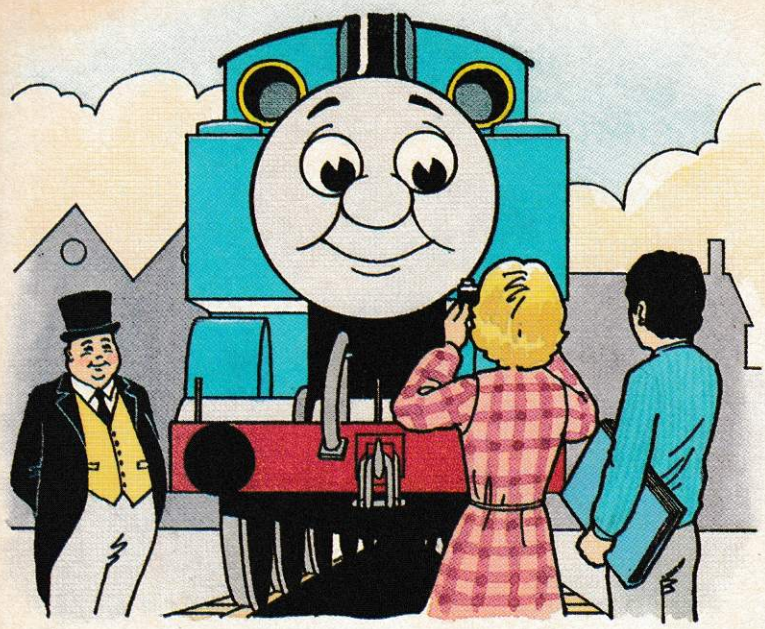
Stephen and Bridget wanted to see the pictures in it. "Let's put everything back neatly first," said their grandmother.

Finally, the job was done. When the Fat Controller returned home from work, all four enjoyed looking at the photo album together. It was packed with pictures of Lady Hatt, the Fat Controller and their children. There were even photos of Stephen and Bridget when they were babies. "A photo album is a fine way to remember happy times with your family and friends," explained the Fat Controller. "I wish we could start our own," said the children. "You can," said Lady Hatt.

She fetched the old camera from the cupboard and gave it to them. "Tomorrow, I'll get a film for the camera and buy you a photo album," she added.

The children were very excited. The next day, they asked Lady Hatt to take them to see the Fat Controller at the Main Station. "I think Stephen and Bridget want to photograph you at work," she told her





husband when they arrived.

The Fat Controller was pleased. "I'll bring the children home later," he replied.

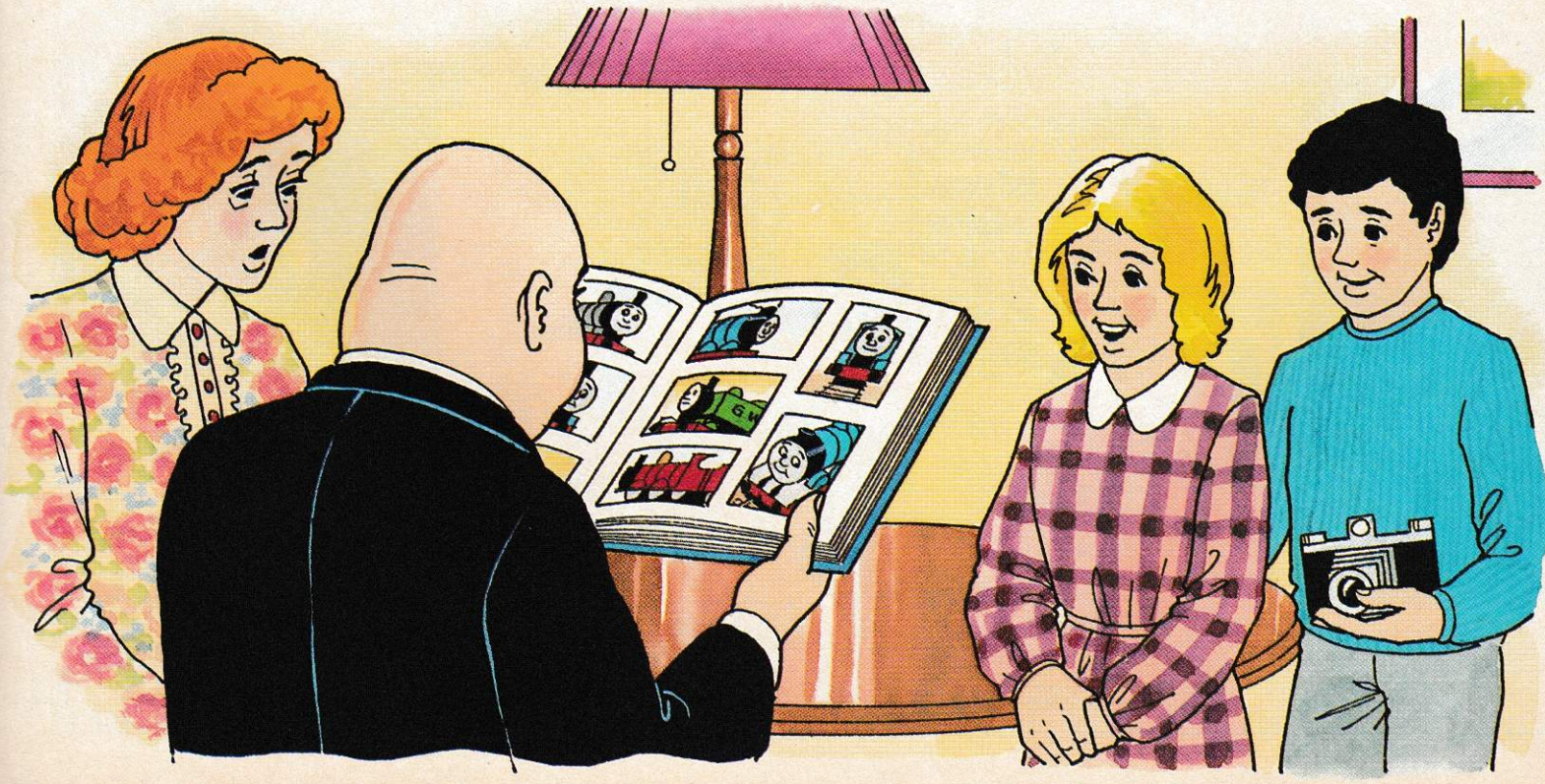
So Lady Hatt waved goodbye to them and went shopping. Meanwhile, the children took photographs every time the Fat Controller spoke to different engines in the yard. "Smile, please!" called the children.

When the film was finished, the Fat Controller took it to a shop. "The pictures will be ready on Saturday," they were told.

They could hardly wait. Lady Hatt went with them to collect the photos. "We'll show them to you after we've put them in our new album," said Bridget.

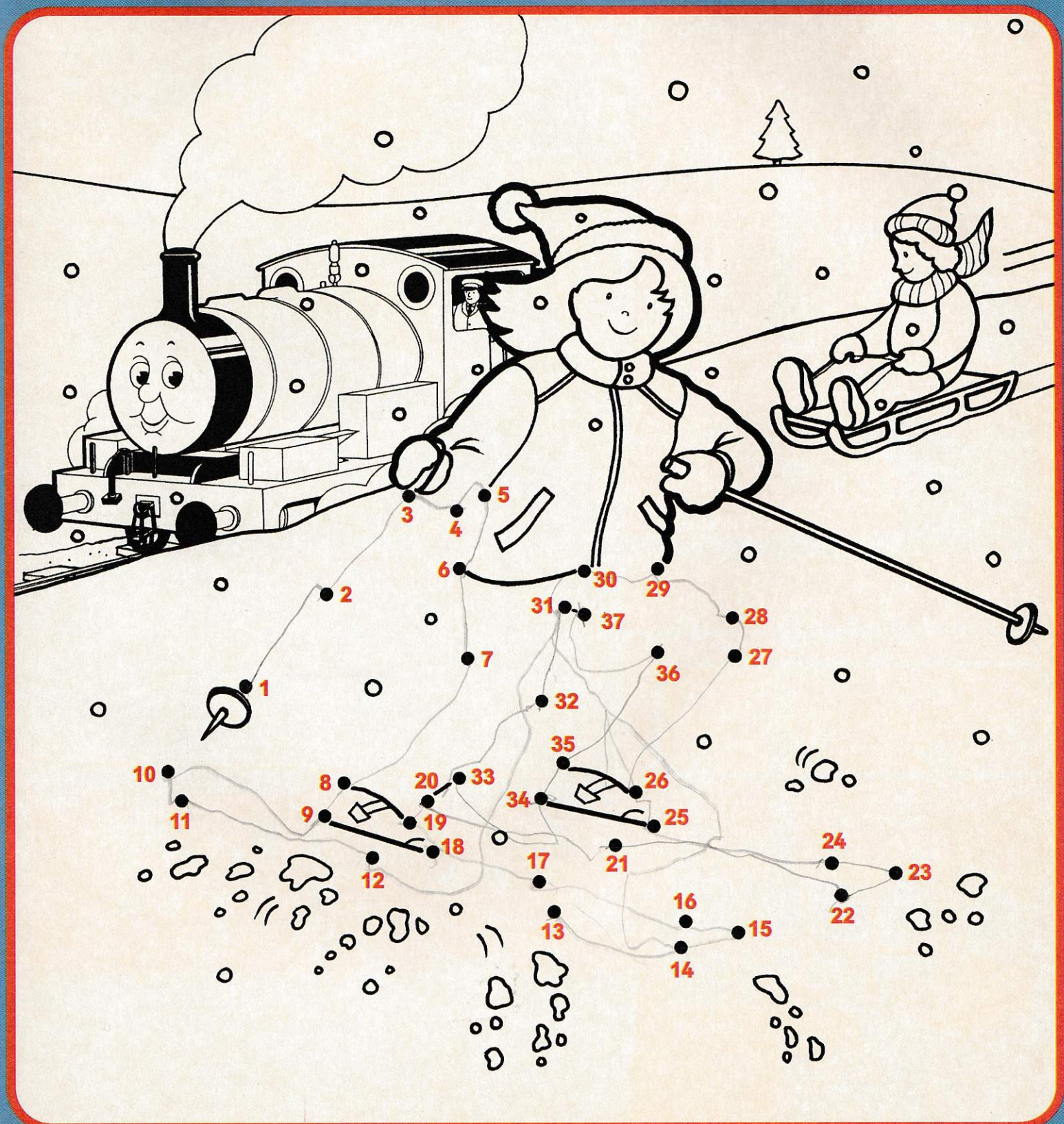
When it was ready, the children handed the album to their grandparents. But Lady Hatt and her husband were very surprised. "There are no photos of us! All I can see are my engines!" the Fat Controller said. "Of course," replied Bridget. "They're a sort of family, aren't they?" "We decided to keep an engine album!" smiled Stephen.

THE END



Dot to dot!

"Percy, look, watch me go!" Bridget cries as she plays in the snow!



When you have finished colour this page!

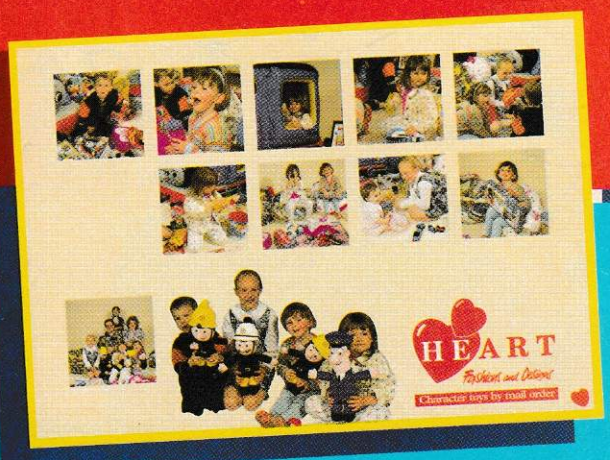
WIN Thomas goodies!

5 readers can decorate their bedrooms with Thomas the tank engine!

To win a Thomas duvet and pillowcase bed set, just tell us:

What number is Duncan ?

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to: Thomas Bedset competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR.



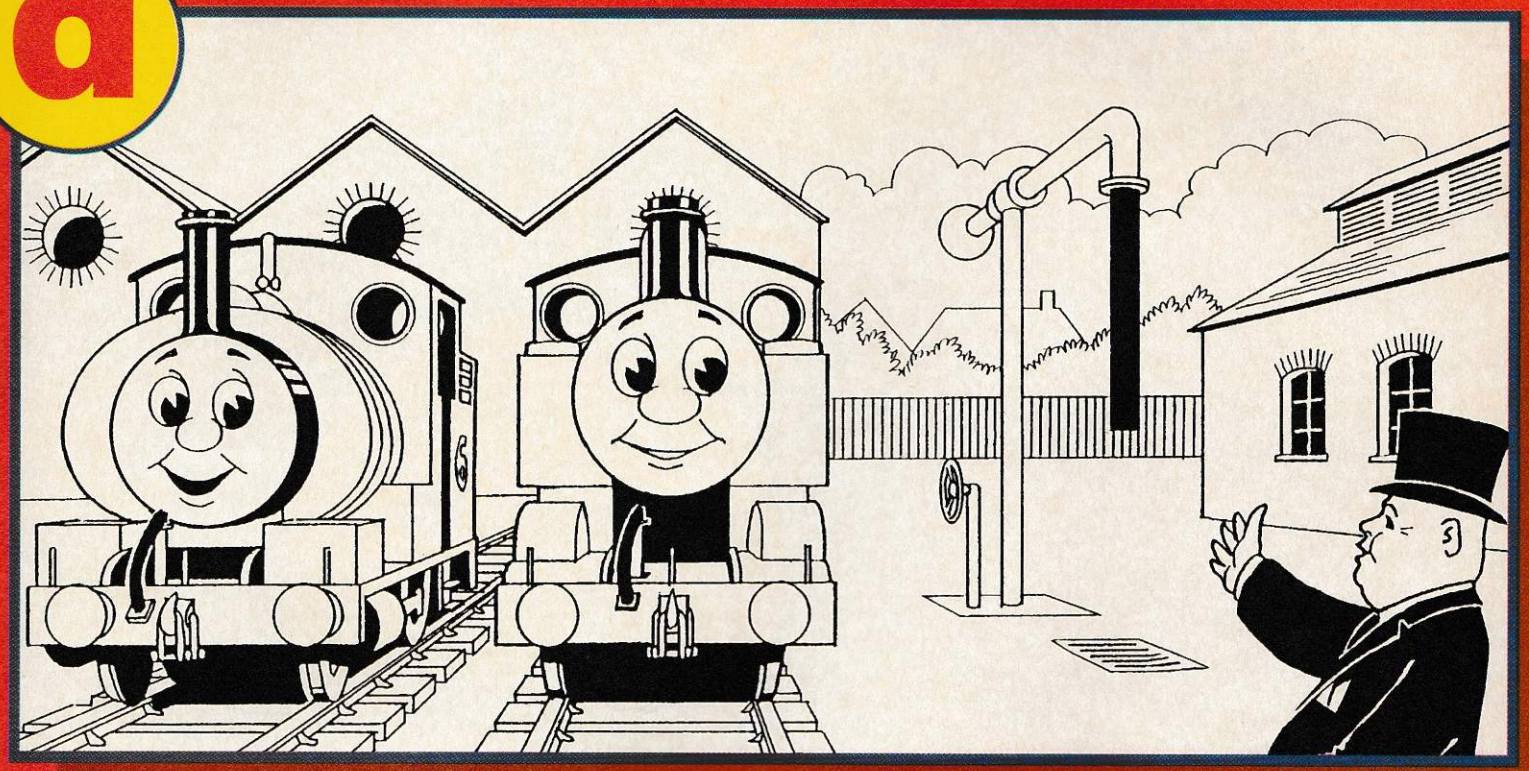
Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 244, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

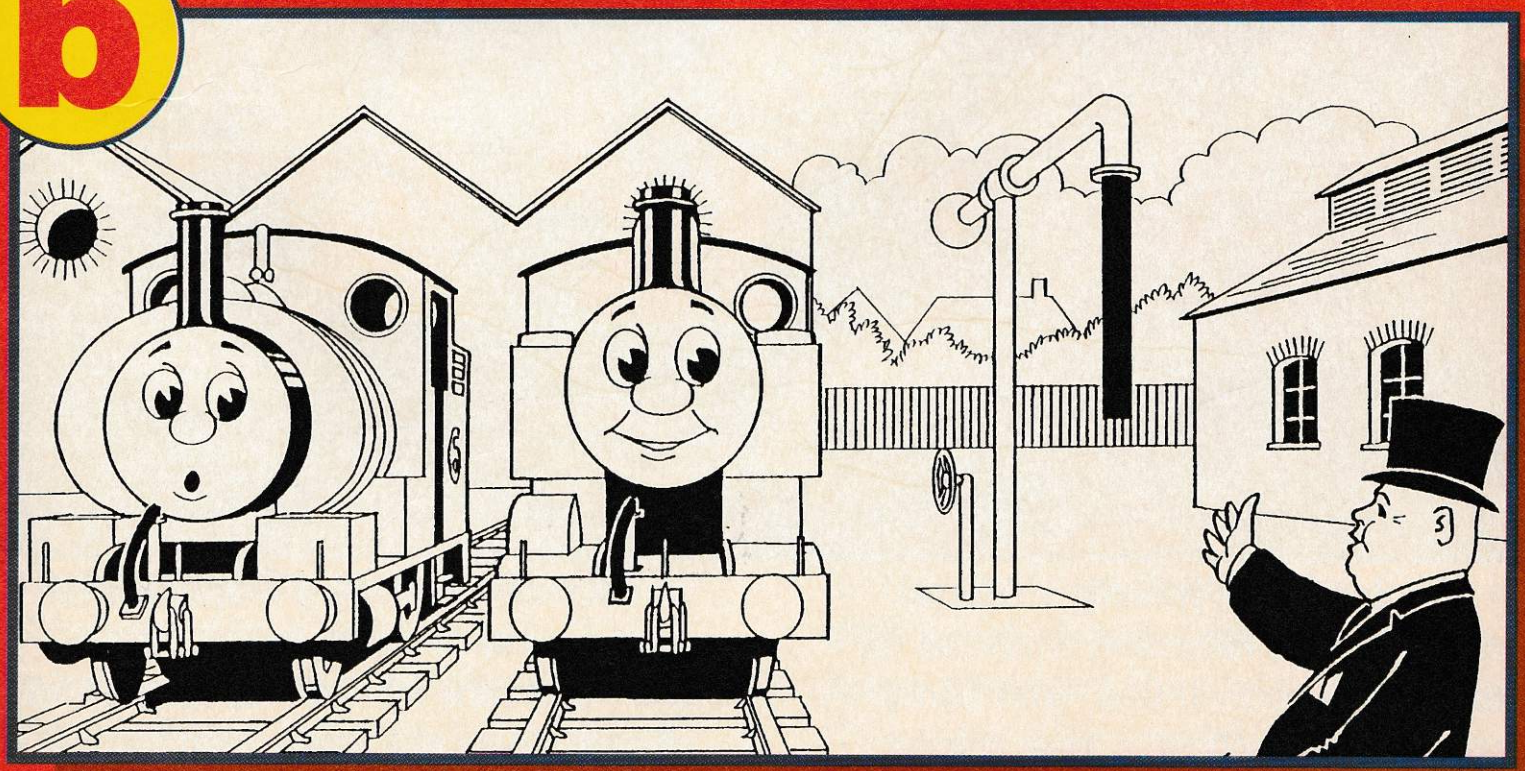
Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the 5 changes?
When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a

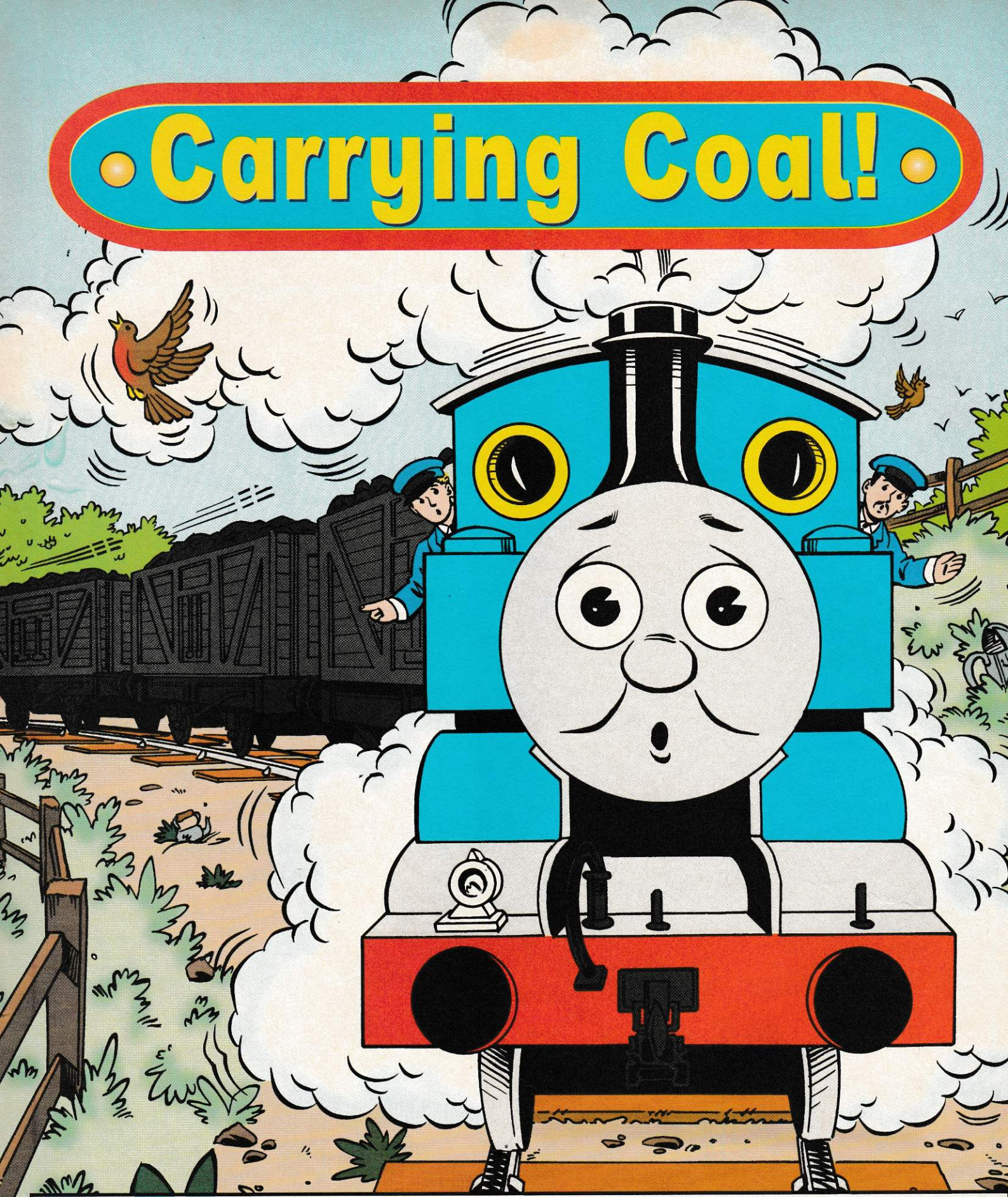


b



Answers: Drain - Thomas' wheel cover - Thomas' porthole - Percy's mouth - station window

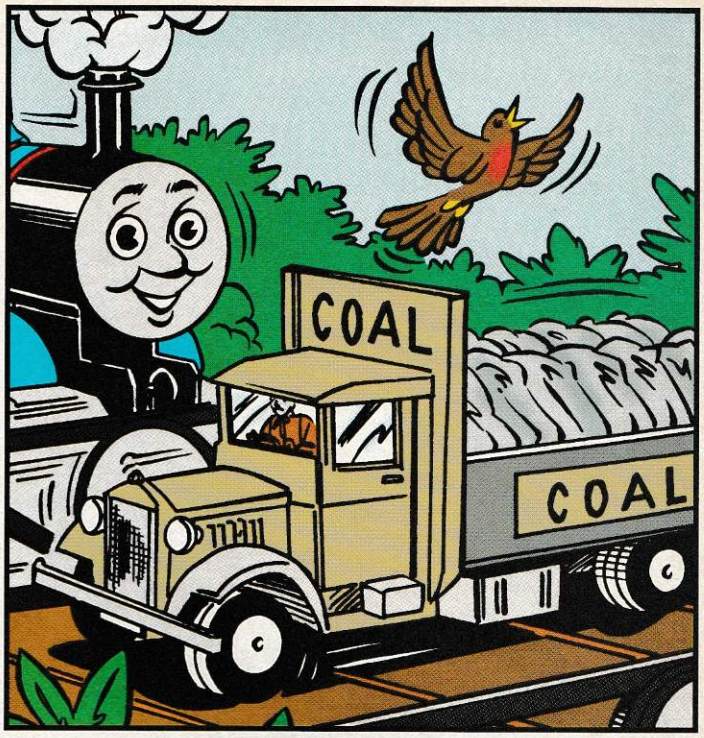
Carrying Coal!



1. Thomas was having a difficult day. He was returning from the far end of his branch line, with some trucks. But he had to take a long route back to avoid a broken rail.

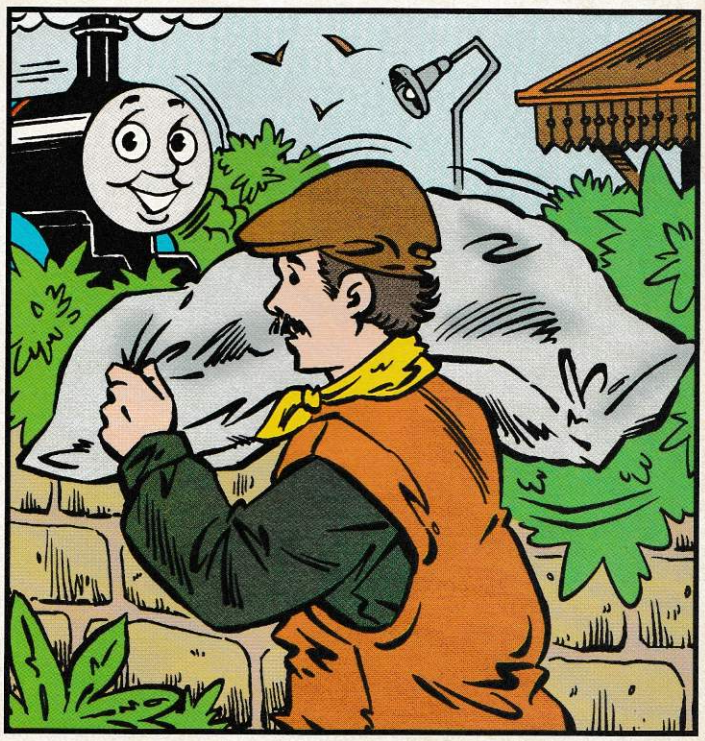
2. Thomas went on a loopline that joined up with his own line again later. But now he was running short of coal. "I hope I've enough left to reach the Main Station," he thought.

3. Thomas' coal bunker was almost empty. His fireman was worried. "I think we'll have to stop at the next station and wait for another engine to bring some more coal," he said.



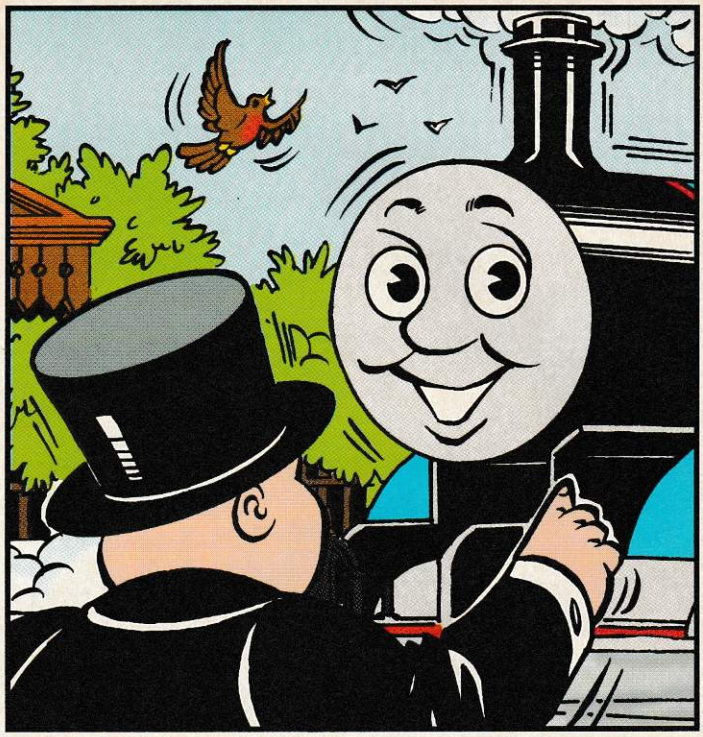
4. That would mean a further delay and Thomas was already running late. Next minute, he had to pull up at a level crossing. Who should be using it but the coalman in his lorry!

5. It was loaded with sacks of coal. Thomas' driver had an idea. "Can you spare some coal, please?" he called. When the man heard about the problem, he was happy to help.



6. The coalman drove to the next station, up ahead, and unloaded some coal from the back of his lorry. "I've more than I need," he told the fireman after Thomas had arrived.

7. Thomas was pleased. His crew thanked the coalman who drove away. Then the fireman shovelled the new coal into Thomas' firebox. He soon had a good head of steam.



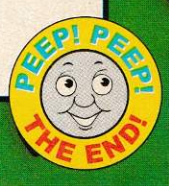
8. Thomas finally arrived back at the Main Station. "Did you run into trouble?" asked the Fat Controller. "Yes but, luckily, we ran into the coalman!" said Thomas, explaining.

9. A few days later, he had to pull a Showtime Special. His faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, were full of passengers who were going to see a musical at the theatre.

10. It was bitterly cold and Thomas was thankful for the warm glow from his boiler. But while he waited for a signal to change, Thomas' driver saw the coalman waving, urgently.

11. The worried coalman pointed to his lorry. “It’s broken down,” he called. “I need to telephone the garage!” “Climb aboard,” called Thomas’ driver. “You can ring from the next station.” But there was another problem. The coalman was also going to the theatre. “The manager needs some coal to heat the theatre for the show,” said the coalman. “It must be delivered!”

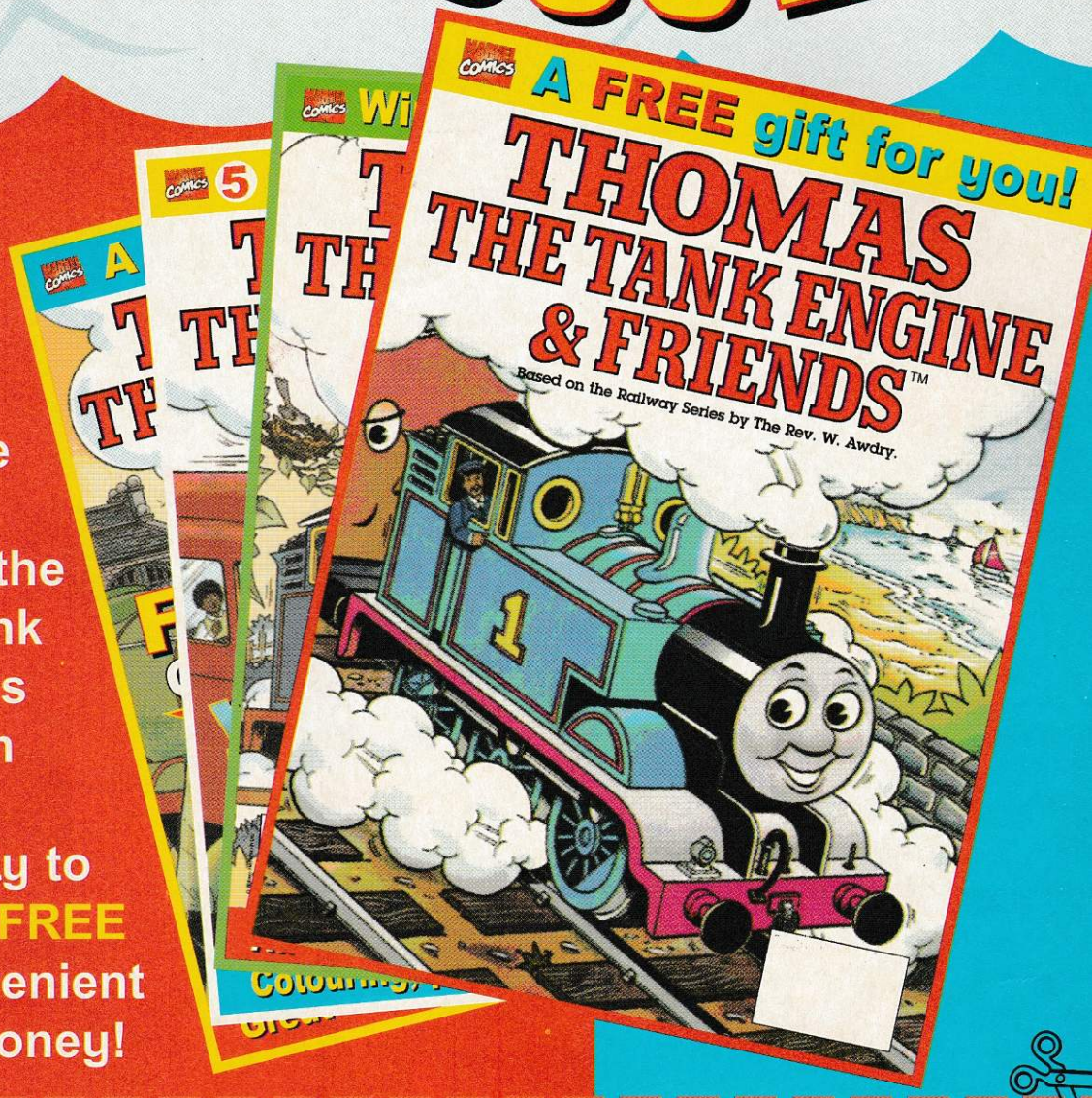
12. “I’ll help!” cried Thomas. “I can deliver it!” The crew quickly loaded coal sacks from the lorry into the guard’s van. The coalman rode in Thomas to the station by the theatre. Then the railway staff used trolleys to deliver the coal. The Manager was delighted. “Now the show can go on!” he smiled. “Thanks to Thomas,” said the grateful coalman.



2 FREE ISSUES

"Calling all parents!"

Why not take out a subscription to the Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends magazine? Each issue can be delivered directly to your front door FREE of charge! Convenient and value for money!



Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months (24 issues) and receive 2 extra issues absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months (25th & 26th Issue FREE) for £28.80. Postage and packaging is FREE!

Child's name.....Address.....

.....

Post code..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

.....

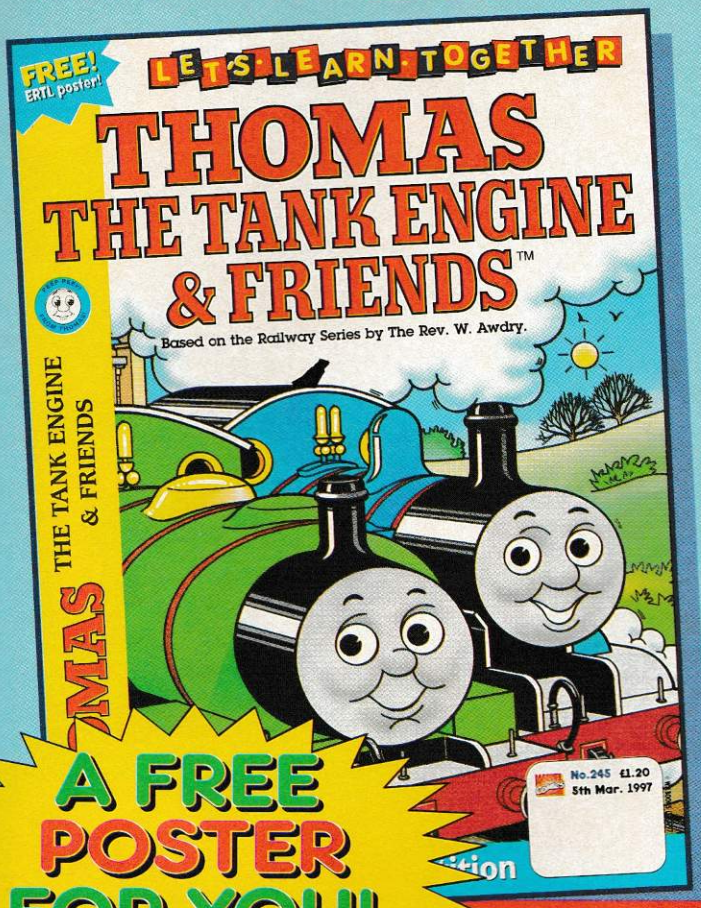
.....Post code .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

0084 S

In issue 245 of . . .



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Five new stories!

Thomas prizes to win!

Puzzles and colouring!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post code.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

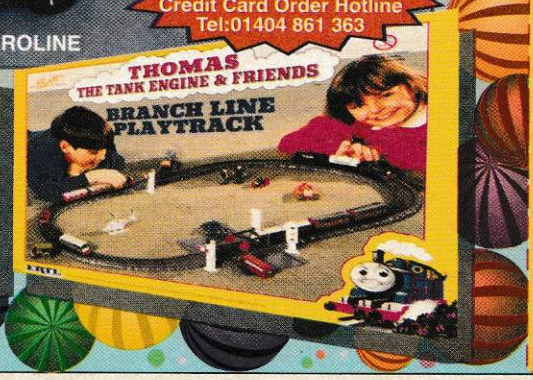
A FREE POSTER FOR YOU!

On sale from 20th February 1997!

NEW ERTL® DIECAST MODELS FROM ASL

ASL have available from stock ***six*** new diecast models taking **The Collectable Range** to a total of 52 models. Complete the coupon below and post with delay. Phone your Credit/Switch Card Order through on **Tel: 01404 861 363.**

The very popular BRANCHLINE and TURNTABLE Playtracks. Credit Card Order Hotline Tel:01404 861 363



Products	Qty	Price £	Total
Caroline		3.99	
The Diesel		4.99	
Skarloey		4.49	
Duke		4.99	
Lord Harry		3.99	
Stepney		4.49	
Branch Line Playtrack		19.99	
Turntable Playtrack		29.99	
Postage & Packing			
Orders up to £15.00 in value		1.50	
£15.00 - £30.00 in value		2.99	
Orders over £30.00 in value *(UK only)*		FREE	
		Total Order Value £	

Please make cheques payable to '**Adwell Systems Ltd**' or Debit my Credit/Switch card, Visa, Access, Mastercard (delete as necessary).

Card No.

Issue No.(if shown) Amount: £

Exp. Date Tel.

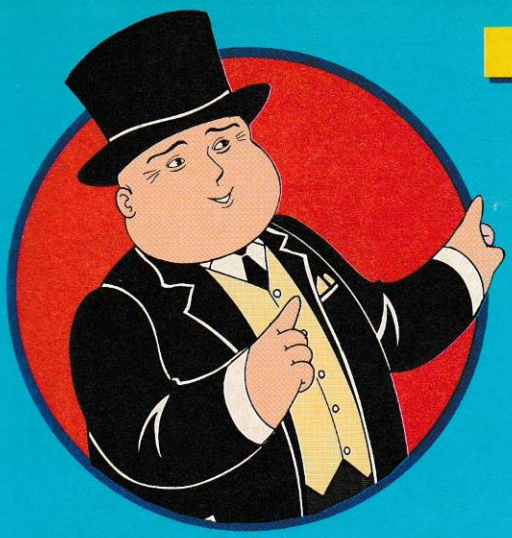
Name

Address

Post Code

Adwell Systems Ltd.
The Old Vicarage, Yarcombe
Devon EX14 9BD. England
Tel:**01404 861363** Fax:**01404 861591**

OVERSEAS ORDERS WELCOME



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Thomas steaming home by Joe Dawson, aged 6.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
What is Rusty's job on Sodor?

From Shane Mason, aged 4.

Rusty is a diesel rail tractor. He's a reliable little fellow used for track maintenance and breakdowns. He's also a great friend to all my engines!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

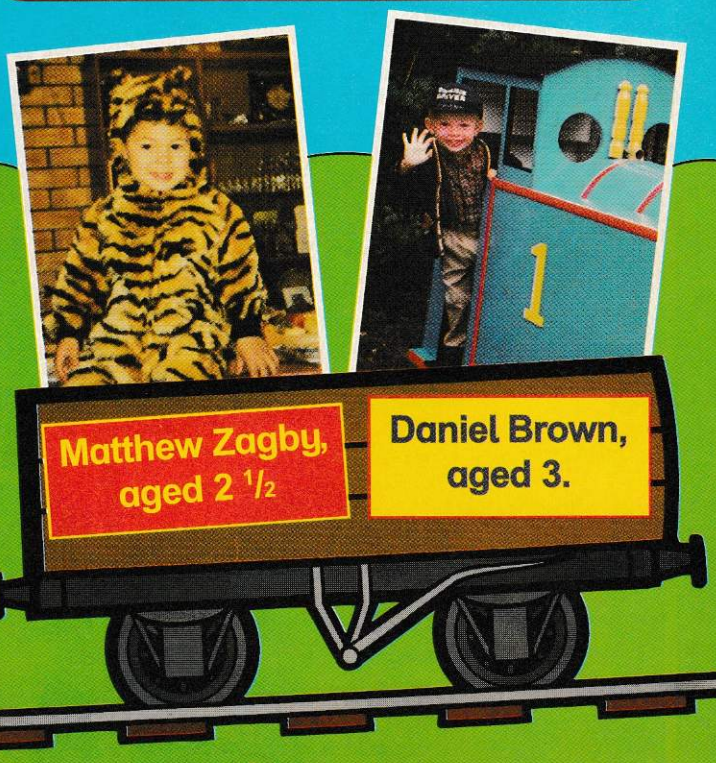
Prize Poem!

Thanks to David Egan, aged 4, who sent me this super poem!

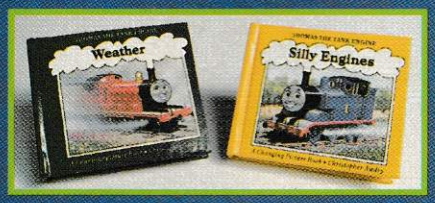
Diesel runs on diesel,
Thomas runs on coal.
Bulgy runs on petrol,
They like to rock and roll!

Happy Birthday

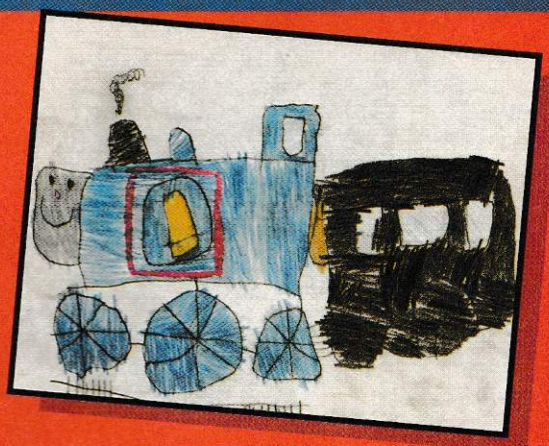
To.. Michael Taylor, aged 2,
Thomas Peace, aged 5,
Nathan Evans, aged 6,
Daniel Alway, aged 3
& Philip Courtnell, aged 6.



ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**



Cheerful Thomas with Annie by Matthew Secber, aged 3 1/2.

A splendid picture of Thomas by Rebecca Watts, aged 4.

Percy's Jokes

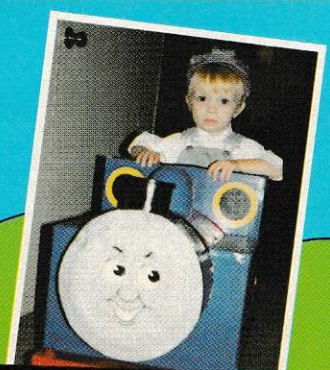
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

Why is Thomas tired?
Because he's run out of steam!
Daniel Carlo, aged 3.

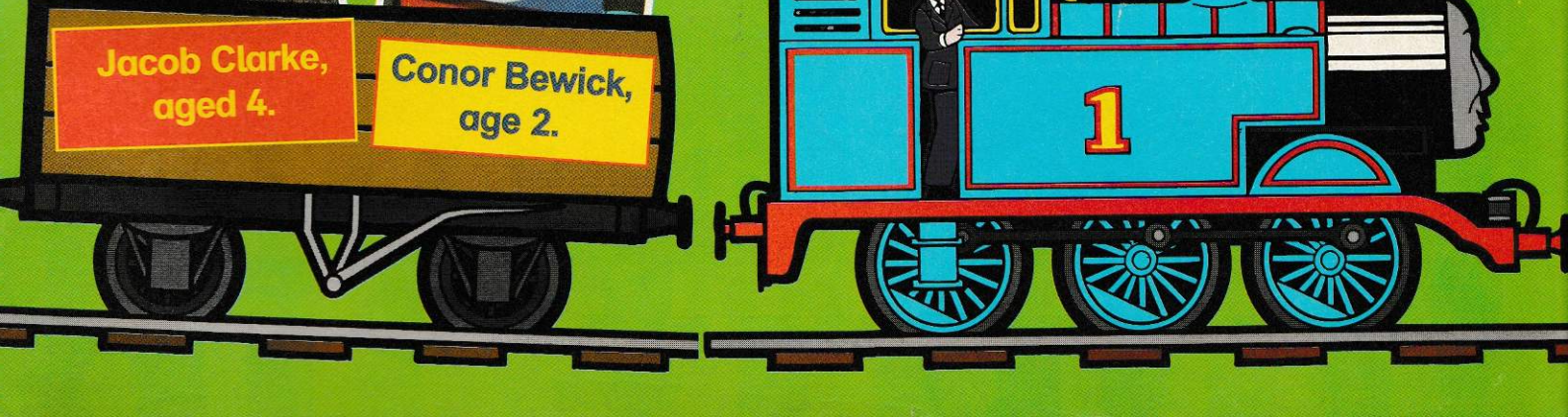
What has four legs and one foot?
A bed!
Sharon Scott, aged 5.

How does Thomas eat his breakfast?
Choo Choooooooo!
Jonathan Harris, aged 4.

Jacob Clarke, aged 4.



Conor Bewick, age 2.



THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
THE FAT
CONTROLLER